

Message Text

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ACTION DHA-02

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FM USDEL GRENADA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0042

C O N F I D E N T I A L GRENADA 00038

FROM USDEL OASGA

USOAS DEL 26

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, OAS, SHUM
SUBJ: USDEL COMMENT ON HUMAN RIGHTS AT OASGA

REF: USOAS DEL 15 AND 22, GRENADA 0028 AND 0037

1. USDEL CONSULTED WIDELY WITH DELS OF COUNTRIES FRIENDLY TO HUMAN RIGHTS DURING IAHRC CHAIRMAN AGUILAR'S REPORT.
2. SINCE COLOMBIAN DRAFT RESOLUTION SO BADLY FLAWED, WE USED US IAHRC COMMISSIONER FARER'S DRAFT (WITHOUT ATTRIBUTION) AS BASIS OF CONSULTATIONS. WHILE WE ARE STILL WAITING FOR OFFICIAL REACTIONS, FIRST IMPRESSION ARE GENERALLY FAVORABLE. DOM REP OBVIOUSLY UNDER STRICT INSTRUCTIONS TO IDENTIFY WITH US AND WANT TO CO-SPONSOOR OUR DRAFT RESOLUTION.
3. VENEZUELA AND COLOMBIA, HOWEVER, HAVE A CONCEPTUAL DIFFICULTY WITH RESOLUTION. THEY BELIEVE PUTTING TERRORISM AND HUMAN RIGHTS TOGETHER IS A TRAP. THEY CLAIM ONLY GOVERNMENTS CAN OFFEND AGAINST HUMAN RIGHTS BECAUSE ONLY

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GOVERNMENTS HAVE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF PROTECTING THEIR CITIZENS, INCLUDING THEIR HUMAN RIGHTS. INTERNATIONAL BODIES SUCH AS THE IAHRC MUST POINT OUT GOVERNMENT'S FAILINGS BUT TO PUT TERRORISTS ON EQUAL FOOTING WITH GOVERNMENTS BY LINKING HUMAN RIGHTS WITH TERRORISM IS SENSELESS. THEY ARE QUITE WILLING TO WORK FOR A STRONG RESOLUTION CONDEMNING TERRORISM BUT NOT IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS CONTEXT.

4. WE ARE SOMEWHAT EYMPATHETIC TO THE VENEZUELAN/COLOMBIAN POSITION BUT HAVE INTRODUCED OUR DRAFT AS AN OFFICIAL WORKING DOCUMENT BECAUSE WE BELIEVE IT PROVIDES A MUCH BETTER BASIS FOR NEGOTIATION THAN THE COLOMBIAN DRAFT. FACT IS, LIEVANO RESOLUTION IS TERRIBLE AND NEARLY IMPOSSIBLE TO FIX.

5. IT IS OUR IMPRESSION THAT THE SOUTHERN CONE COUNTRIES ARE NOT WORKING TOGETHER WELL AT ALL. THE ARGENTINES TELL US THEY ARE NOT PLANNING ANYTHING. THEY SAY THEY HAVE INTRODUCED RESOLUTION (REFTEL) AND ARE SITTING BACK, AWAITING DEVELOPMENTS. FROM OUR COLLECTIVE OBSERVATIONS, WE BELIEVE THIS IS THE CASE. THE PARAGUAYAN FOREIGN MINISTER IS RESISTING RECOMMENDATIONS FROM HIS DELEGATION TO SPEAK OUT AGAINST HUMAN RITHTS AND IS JUST LISTENING. HE TOLD US HE WILL SAY LITTLE IF ANYTHING AT ALL. URUGUAY IS THE MOST OUTSPOKEN AND HAS MADE A VERY BAD IMPRESSION. CHILE IS IN THE MOST DIFFICULT SPOT. OUR GUESS, WILD AS IT SOUNDS, IS THAT IN THE END CHILE MAY OFFER EITHER TO CO-SPONSOR OR AT LEAST TO VOTE FOR OUR RESOLUTION, AS THE ONLY WAY TO PROVE THAT THEY DO NOT DESERVE TO BE SINGLED OUT FOR THE FOURTH YEAR IN A ROW AS THE MOST GREIVOUS OFFENDER AGAINST HUMAN RIGHTS N THHIS HEMISPHERE. THIS IS THEIR OVERRIDING OBJECTIVE AND THEY WERE PLEASED THAT AGUILAR'S REPORT DID NOT DWELL ON CHILE.

6. WE GAVE CHILE A COPY OF OUR RESOLUTION. THEY (SCHWEITZER AND DIEZ) WERE OBVIOUSLY QUITE IMPRESSED, SAID THEY WOULD CONFIDENTIAL

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STUDY IT AND ADMITTED THEY FOUND IT MORE BALANCED THAN THEY HAD EXPECTED. CHILE PLEADED WITH OS NOT TO SUPPORT VENEZUELAN RESOLUTION AIMED AT NEW REPORT ON CHILE. WE RESPONDED THAT OUR INSTRUCTIONS WERE TO SUPPORT THE CONTINUATION OF A SEPARATE WATCHING BRIEF ON CHILE. IN OUR OPINION, CHILE WILL CONCEDE US PRACTICALLY ANYTHING IF WE WILL CHANGE OUR POSITION ON ANOTHER SPECIAL REPORT. THIS IS OF COURSE PRECISELY WHAT VENEZUELA MEANT WHEN THE FONMIN SAID THAT HIS ONLY FEAR WAS THAT THE US WOULD NOT STAND BESIDE VENEZUELA ALL THE AY ON HUMAN RIGHTS AT THE OASFA. VENEZUELA IS SURE TO ASK US TO CO-SPONSER ITS RESOLUTION (REFTEL ON CHILE.

7. ACTION REQUESTED: DEPARTMENT SEND INSTRUCTIONS.

8. TO TURN TO OUR FRIENDS, FACIO DEPARTED THIS MORNING AND WILL NOT RETURN. THIS WAS AGREAT SURPRISE SINCE HE WAS THE CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEE I, A CRUCIAL POSITION, CEDING IT TO ARGENTINE FORMIN MONTES, AND WE HAD UNDERSTOOD FACIO

WOULD USE HIS INFLUENCE TO INSURE A SATISFACTORY OUT-
COME. MEXICO IS WORKING CLOSELY WITH VENEZUELA AND
COLOMBIA. HONDURAS, PERU AND ECUADOR ARE BASICALLY WITH
US AND DO NOT SHARE THE CONCERNS OF VENEZUELA AND
COLOMBIA ABOUT LINKING HUMAN RIGHTS AND TERRORISM IN
THE SAME RESOLUTION.

8. WE ARE HOSTING A BREAKFAST MEETING TOMORROW FOR
MEXICO, VENEZUELA AND COSTA RICA (AMB SILVA) TO TRY TO
RECONCILE OUR POSITIONS AND DEVELOP SOUND STRATEGIES.

9. WHILE THE ENGLISH SPEAKING CARIBBEANS HAVE NOT YET
REACTED TO THE RESOLUTION, JAMAICA, TRINIDAD AND BARBADOS
ARE SOLIDLY WITH US, JAMICA'S RATTRAY TOLD US HE IS CONFIDENT
HE CAN BRING GRENADA AROUND TO VOTING WITH DEMOCRATIC STATES. IT
IS VERY POSSIBLE, HOWEVER, THAT JAMAICA, BARBADOS AND
TRINIDAD WILL OPPOSE LINKING TERRORISM AND HUMAN RIGHTS.
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10. PUTTING TOGETHER A CONSENSUS OF RESPECTABLE STATES
ON THIS ISSUE IS GOING TO BE DIFFICULT AND EVENTS MAY
WELL MOVE VERY FAST IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS. WE WILL HAVE TO
REACT QUICKLY AND SURELY. PLEASE SUPPLY US WITH RESPONSES
REQUESTED AND ANY OTHER GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO
PROVIDE AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.
MCGEE

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